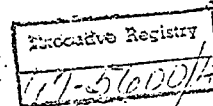


OGC Has Reviewed



14 DEC 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

I readily understand your concern for the questions which you have raised in your letter of 23 November. I hope that my response will enable you to appreciate the Agency's position on these matters.

As to your first question, it is part of our regular Agency procedure to ask applicants not to divulge the contents of their interviews with our recruiters. This is not because there is anything particularly secret about the interviews but because widespread knowledge of the Agency's interest in an applicant may well limit the applicant's eventual choice of professional employment within the Agency. Experience over the years has shown that this is a necessary and proper precaution, the reasons for which are appreciated by the great majority of our applicants.

Requesting an applicant to agree in writing not to disclose the contents of his interview is a procedure which in recent years has been used infrequently at the discretion of the recruiter. We have recently reviewed the propriety and effectiveness of this practice and it is being discontinued.

With regard to your related second question, even if the university can, as in your case, control the physical interference by protestors with our recruiters, the more militant and determined protestors can still cause considerable difficulties for the Agency and for the applicants. They can and do identify our

recruiters and harass them off the campus, but even more serious they can identify the student applicants either to harass them privately or to limit their careers by publicizing their applications and reduce the possible areas in which we might otherwise be able to use them. After very careful consideration, we came to the conclusion that visits on campuses which are likely to result in confrontations hurt rather than help our recruiting efforts.

I assure you that we are aware that incidents attending CIA recruitment interviews are but one aspect of the broader question of the relationships between university authorities and student bodies. Our experience has been that on those campuses which seem to be having trouble, our presence arouses mainly radically militant groups which do not represent student bodies generally. We have felt, therefore, that protests of this sort serve only to complicate the efforts of university communities to maintain an equitable balance in the relationships between university authorities and the representatives of student bodies. We do not believe our withdrawal from the campuses constitutes a victory for the militant groups, even though they may claim it, but rather the removal of a source of controversy and friction which serves neither the development of wholesome relationships within the university community nor the conduct of fruitful interviews between the Agency and applicants. I would like to assure you that we gave long and careful thought to the whole problem before reluctantly coming to this conclusion.

I greatly appreciate your interest in these matters and I commend you for the forthright stand you have taken at Stanford. I hope that this will assist your understanding of our position, and please do not hesitate to call on us if there is anything further we can do.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

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